

The freedom and alleged rights of individuals are frequently subordinated to and interfered with for the public good. The laws which forbid the intermarriage of whites and blacks interfere with the individual preferences of some of each color. But the health, happiness and good order of present and future generations outweigh the color-blind predilection of the few.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER'S CORRESPONDENCE

Personality is shown through the channels of correspondence as vividly as through any other medium. A letter written to the League for the Conservation of Public Health by Sir William Osler emphasizes this fact.

We all know what a busy man Dr. Osler is and the great demand that is made upon his valuable time. Yet, when the League wrote to him for certain information in reference to the Medical Practice Act, his reply was prompt, clear and terse. Although far removed from the scene of the League's activities the distance was quickly bridged because Dr. Osler instantly recognized in the League's undertaking a constructive effort to enable modern medicine to render a larger service.

We will confine ourselves to quoting the concluding paragraph from Dr. Osler's letter: "Let me know if I can be of any help at any time." Here we have exemplified the splendid spirit of co-operation that all of us may profitably emulate. This man of great scientific attainments, high honors and absorbing affairs finds time not only to answer promptly a communication from a League many thousand leagues away, but he generously offers to help at any time. "Time travels in divers paces with divers persons." Busy men like Dr. Osler must keep their time burglar-proof against the thefts of procrastination. You do not find the desks of busy men filled with unanswered letters.

A wag once said that the degree of Doctor of Letters should be conferred upon Doctors who answer their letters promptly. There may be some justification for this jocose remark, and we therefore commend Dr. William Osler's promptitude as an example for our Doctors to follow.

HEALTH HECKLERS

Have you ever heard of "health hecklers," those tireless and tiresome obstructionists that are fanatically striving against health programs, ever doing anything for the advancement of public health?

The eradication of yellow fever at Panama, through the devoted work of former Surgeon General William C. Gorgas and his scientific medical staff, made possible the building and maintenance of the Panama Canal.

Through the work of this same distinguished Doctor, using the scientific methods developed through medical research, yellow fever has recently been conquered at Guayaquil and other

points on the west coast of South America. Through skilled laboratory investigations Noguchi has been able to identify what is probably the cause of yellow fever, a step which will materially hasten the total eradication of yellow fever from the earth.

There is no community so credulous that it would rely upon the absent treatment of health hecklers to extirpate yellow fever, malaria, small-pox, etc. These obstructionists are not strong on pest prevention, they are distinguished for being pestiferous. Pestiferous people are not the kind that are entrusted with the big constructive work of the world.

In the armies and among civilians the surgeons and physicians have saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Let all understand that are attempting to obstruct the progress of modern medicine that they may heckle and handicap it but that the conservation and protection of the public health will not be abated, but that nuisances will.

ANOTHER FAKER AT LARGE.

Why cannot the doctor who is approached for money by some more or less unknown supplicant, posing as a member of the reputable medical profession, refer the aforesaid supplicant to the officers of the local medical society or the established charities? Then his claims can receive due investigation and real need can be adequately relieved. Too often the only relief is to the doctor's already anemic pocket book. The medical profession should not by training or experience be more gullible than other professions. Moreover, doctors of all men should appreciate the serious social damage too often resulting from indiscriminate charity. Send them to the responsible and established agencies for administering charity or to the officers of the local medical society.

These remarks are occasioned by a report from a physician in the southern part of the State, of the pernicious activities of one, self-styled "Dr. Manx." This Manx plays the game of asking for a few days' assisting work with a surgeon, and when sufficiently acquainted, states that he and his wife are hungry, and need a few dollars to buy food. Several supposedly intelligent doctors have fallen for this easy means of separating them from their cash. Presumably the same individual operated in Santa Clara County in 1918, holding himself out then as a "Dr. Mauz" or "Dr. Manx," with letters from the Santa Fe Company, and admission cards to the Senn clinic in Chicago. He is described as a man of about 45 years, clean shaven, dark complexion, well-dressed, about five feet ten inches tall, and weighing about 175 pounds. One check given him came back endorsed "Dr. E. Mauz."

Such oily and tortuous applicants demand investigation. It is unfortunate that the medical profession will succumb to the siren songs of such predatory grafters. Avoid them as you would gold mine and phony oil stock.